



June 15, 2020

COVID-19 TECHNICAL ADVISORY

NO. 020

**SUBJECT: Adoption of Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258 entitled
“Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19”
and Submission of Completely Accomplished Documents / Forms**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF – EID) National Action Plan set forth the “Detect, Isolate, and Treat” strategies to mitigate, identify, contain, and manage the disease. However, the increasing number of suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts in the region also entails the subsequent increase in the demand of RT – PCR testing. Hence, the Department of Health – Eastern Visayas Center for Health Development (DOH – EV CHD) strongly recommends that all returning residents be assumed as having been exposed to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and should be handled and treated as COVID-19 suspects. They have to strictly abide to the minimum health requirements and shall be quarantined / isolated immediately upon arrival.

Per Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258 and to best capture the virus, the following has to be observed:

I. Asymptomatic Patients

- a. All asymptomatic healthcare workers and patients with exposure shall be tested not less than five (5) days from exposure / arrival to the region¹
- b. Patients who test RT-PCR positive and remain asymptomatic for at least 14 days can discontinue quarantine and tagged as a recovered confirmed case **without need for further testing**, provided a licensed medical doctor clears the patient.



II. Symptomatic Patients

- a. Symptomatic patients have to be swabbed immediately upon arrival.
- b. Symptomatic patients who have clinically recovered and are no longer symptomatic for at least three (3) days and have completed at least 14 days of isolation either at home, temporary treatment and monitoring facility, or hospital, can be tagged as a recovered confirmed case and reintegrated to the community **without the need for further testing**, provided that a licensed medical doctor clears the patient.

These patients, regardless if they are symptomatic or asymptomatic, shall be strictly isolated pending the release of the result.

All LGUs and health facilities shall coordinate with DOH – EV CHD's Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU) prior to the collection and sending of samples. These specimens are to be sent to RESU within 24 hours upon collection, attached with accomplished documents (Case Investigation Form, Linelist, Laboratory Request, etc). Re-swabbing after 14-day of isolation is no longer necessary provided that the patient be on home isolation for an additional of seven (7) days after discharge.

Please be guided accordingly.

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Director IV

¹COVID-19 Diagnostics Presentation of Dr. Edsel Salvana